

# GARDENING NOTES—SPEEDING UP POULTRY PRODUCTION

Six inches of stem left on dahlias roots makes a good place to tie the label.

Onions, mustard and cress sown frequently under glass are useful for salad.

Sulphate of iron is an excellent corrective for many plants that are sickly. Make a solution, using half an ounce of sulphate of iron to a gallon of water, and water the ailing plants once or twice with this solution.

"Every man who can make himself and his household self-supporting relieves the demand upon the stock of food that is available for the nation."

—R. E. PROTHRO, Minister for Agriculture, Great Britain.

This above is equally true in America. Every man who can make his household self-supporting relieves just what food his family would otherwise consume for America and our allies. Now is the time to begin to plan the garden that is to support the family next year, to read and study the subject, to get the garden well prepared and ready for each step of the work at just the proper time. Preparedness in the garden and on the farm is quite as important as preparedness in the army and navy.

Where there is old plaster to be had from walls or from walls that have been repaired spread it over the garden. The lime it contains will be worth the labor.

Solanum capsicastrum or Christmas cherries, as they are sometimes called, can be induced to color up their green fruits by increasing the temperature in which they are growing. Give applications of liquid manure twice a week.

## POTTING PLANTS.

Potting soil should be moderately moist throughout, but not so moist that it will not fall apart readily after it has been squeezed in the hand. Good loam and clean soil will answer, but the best potting soil is made by compacting turf, that is grass sod turned upside down, with a thick layer of manure between every four or five layers. A pile of this that has laid out in the garden for a year will be in prime condition. This should be worked through a coarse sieve to take out stones and rough pieces. For ordinary purposes one-third of clean sand and thorough mixing of the above makes it friable and insures good drainage.

## Healthy Plants and Healthy People

Can Only Thrive in Proper Atmosphere

Atmosphere—Ordinary living rooms are unhealthy, the air is too dry, there is too much carbon dioxide, the light is too dim, the air is too stale, the people who live in such places are liable to catch cold, influenza, pneumonia, bronchitis, etc., etc.

THE HUMIRAD requires no attention once it is installed, and it keeps the atmosphere of the house at just the right moisture so that plants flourish, the occupants enjoy good health, and a great saving is made in the consumption of fuel. The Humirad is in which bacteria float is subdued. The laws of many States require the use of Humirad in all public places of assembly.

Can Be Used with Steam, Vapor or Hot Water Heating Systems. Send for circular.

**Humirad Company, Inc.,**  
15 East 40th St., New York.

**FLORAL HAMPERS**  
FRESHLY CUT FLOWERS  
FROM THE GREENHOUSES  
You know what a delightful gift you get in fresh flowers in the city at XMAS for the money, place orders now and we will deliver promptly in time for XMAS. Fresh Holly, Berried Sprays, for \$2. for \$3. Fresh Holly, Berried Sprays, for \$2. for \$3. Fresh Holly, Berried Sprays, for \$2. for \$3.

But order it once—we do the best. SENT with your card anywhere. THE HOLLOWAY GARDENS, GREENPORT, N. Y.

## UNUSUAL HOLIDAY DECORATIONS

### UNUSUAL CHRISTMAS PRESENTS

Lasting Beautiful Decorations. Galax Leaves, Leucothoe Sprays, Holly, Balsam, Ground Pine. Prepared Collections, \$2.00 to \$5.00 each. Fresh hand-picked selected quality. Best packing. Satisfaction guaranteed. Order early, sending cards to be enclosed to friends.

EDWARD ROBBINS, Pineola, North Carolina

## Christmas Decorations for Home and Table

### ORDER LIVING CHRISTMAS TREES NOW

Things of beauty for the entire winter. Make your home smile for the next few weeks with real Christmas cheer by using living evergreens. For table decorations and center pieces our miniature Christmas trees lend an atmosphere of charm and distinctive originality.

For formal effect at entrances and about the house the most enchanting result is secured. Our largest size, adapted for use as a decorative, living Christmas tree, the theme of song and story, brings the spirit of the old-fashioned Xmas to your home and is a source of delight to both young and old.

For Holiday table pieces, 12-18 in., \$0.50  
For formal effect, 2-3 ft., 1.00  
Christmas trees, 3-4 ft., 2.00 20.00

There are all handsome, nursery grown trees, with symmetrical heads, set off by fragrant, light green foliage and far superior to the slim, flimsy wild stock offered by jobbers. The ball of moss in which the roots are firmly packed will keep the trees living and in good condition until spring, when they may be planted on your lawn for perpetual beauty.

Express shipments begin Dec. 10th and require two days to reach New York City and vicinity.

There seems to be a disposition on the part of business houses this season to make life to their employees. We are in position to handle such orders promptly.

GLEN BROS., Inc., GLENWOOD NURSERY, ROCHESTER, N. Y.

drainage. Other conditions being right, plants will flourish in this soil.

Use only clean pots. Never use pots a second time until they have been washed. Do not use too large pots—a common error. Set the plant in the center of the pot and firm the soil about it with the thumbs, leaving sufficient pot rim over the surface of the earth to hold ample water when the plant is watered.

Water the plants immediately after potting and shade them for a day or two. When plants become pot bound, that is when the root mass completely fills the pot, repot in a size or two larger.

## CHINESE LANTERNS.

We have had in our house for several years a number of stalks of the Chinese lantern, and the red orange seed pods or "lanterns" are as brilliant and beautiful now as on the day they were picked. The leaves, of course, wither and drop off, but the lanterns are attached to the stalks by tough and wiry stems which hold them securely in place. The pods are as large as the ordinary sweet pepper, but more regular in form. They are widest at the top, and taper gracefully to a point at the lower end. From two to ten lanterns are borne on a single stalk and their glowing color and interesting form give them a decorative value quite out of the ordinary. Several of the stalks placed in a copper bowl produce a color note as effective as it is unusual.

The Chinese lantern plant is easily grown. In fact almost too easily, for the roots have a tendency to spread and take up more than the space allotted to them in the garden. The best plan in starting a bed is to obtain a few roots from a grower. These may be set out early in the spring, in rows two feet apart. The roots should be covered with two inches of soil. If too many shoots come up from the roots, thin out so that the plants will be foot apart in the rows. The plants reach a height of two feet and the more they are fertilized and cultivated, the larger and finer will be the lanterns. By October the plants are fully grown and the lanterns have changed from green to the beautiful red orange which is their permanent color. Then the stalks may be gathered, and the leaves either cut off or allowed to wither and fall of their own accord. As the leaves fade to a soft gray, we like to keep them on as long as they will stay.

The plant is so attractive to insects, especially the common potato beetle, that frequent spraying with arsenate of lead or nicotine solutions is necessary to protect the leaves from injury by the insects, and to assure the production of the finest lanterns. Many decorative uses of the Chinese lanterns may be suggested. The stems may be utilized to form a unique dinner table centerpiece, and the single lanterns on short stalks make delightful individual favors. As the cheerful coloring is altogether in keeping with the holiday spirit, Christmas and Thanksgiving will bring many opportunities to use every lantern which the garden has produced.

One of the smart studio shops of New York, noted for the originality and distinction of its products, found in these lanterns last year a novelty which they were glad to offer their customers. Indeed, it was impossible to obtain a supply equal to the demand.

The Chinese lantern should be more widely grown, for it is one of the products of the flower garden to the enjoyment of which there is practically no time limit.

C. F. Snow, New Jersey.

## SCHOOL LUNCHEONS.

School lunches should be sensible lunches prepared for the good of the child rather than to suit the taste. Children's food should be good. It is wrong to give children food that the adults themselves would not eat, such as food made of bread or cake that is not perfectly good, the cake and pickles can be omitted altogether, and the health of the child will be better for it. The following suggestions give a list of foods suitable for several different lunches offer suitable combinations.

1. Sandwiches with sliced tender meat, baked apple, cookies. 2. Slices of meat loaf or bean loaf, bread and butter sandwiches, stewed fruit. 3. Sliced rolls filled with chopped meat.

In a case where one supports all that one naturally might be looked upon as being in a position to dictate, but the farmer has never assumed this attitude and is content to let his land be used as he sees fit.

As a result the farmer has been exploited by politicians, financiers, merchants, manufacturers, middlemen, railroads and so on. In fact the farmer has been legal prey for every one from tax gatherer up, and the general policy has been to take from him as much as possible, giving as little as possible in return. He has been potted on the back and told how to live and how to work, and he has been told his advantages are over people who would not change places with him.

The farmer in the East has seen his boys and girls flock steadily to the city and look back with pity on the old folks at home. Parents have wondered why youngsters do better financially with less work in the city and shorter hours than in the country. Nothing will keep the children on the farm but the opportunity to do as well in the country as can be done in the city. This is the exact situation, cutting out all sentiment and false theories, and the sooner it is understood the better.

These ideas are not given out by farmers in a spirit of impatient dissatisfaction, but as a matter of protection to the nation, our men under arms and our Allies relying upon us for food.

Evidently what the farmers need is one great national farmers' union. Not independent local State organiza-

or fish and seasoned or mixed with salad dressing, orange, apple, sliced fruits or berries. 4—Lettuce or celery sandwiches, cup custard, jelly sandwiches. 5—Cottage cheese and chopped green pepper sandwiches, or a pot of cream cheese with bread and butter or peanut sandwiches. 6—Hard boiled eggs, bread and butter, or peanut butter sandwiches or maple sugar sandwiches. 7—Bottle of milk, corn bread and butter, dates, apple. 8—Raisin or nut bread, with butter, cheese, orange, maple sugar. 9—Baked bean and lettuce sandwiches, apple sauce, sweet chocolate.

Mothers who have school lunches to put up should send to the Department of Agriculture for a bulletin on this subject and give the matter a little thought and study. It seems like a trifling thing, but it may be the means of building the future health of the children.

## DO SPRING BUYING NOW.

Join with neighbors and order fertilizers, lime, spraying materials and any implements that may be needed before spring. If carried lots can be ordered the delivery will be made more quickly than on small lots. Goods ordered now may not be delivered before they are wanted for use in the spring, and if delivered sooner the feeling of security resulting from having these things on hand is worth the slight interest lost on the money drawn from the bank to pay for them before they are needed. The railroads are blocked with freight, and though conditions in this respect may grow better, it is best to take no chances. Order goods now in advance of the time they are wanted, otherwise it may be necessary to go without them when they are needed. This advice applies to seeds quite as much as to fertilizers and tools.

## AN AMERICAN FARMERS UNION.

By EDWARD C. VICK.

Those in authority have stated that the war is to be won by food. Farmers are to be the backbone of the nation, and the food they produce is to be the basis of the nation's strength.

After performing the labor of production the farmer is to be the only producer compelled to accept a price for what he produces, which is made by men who are non-producers.

Farmers compare this treatment with that of labor unions that only a short time ago asked for and received eight hours a day's work with ten hours' pay, and since this demand was granted still higher wages have been asked.

Farmers do not object to selling their produce at a reasonable price, but of production considered, but farmers say that steel producers are consulted before the price of steel is fixed, and the same is true of other important industries.

Farmers are not content with the price of foodstuffs produced by farmers. They want to know the price of foodstuffs produced by farmers.

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Physalis Franchetti—Chinese lantern plant.

The use of pork products is increasing in spite of high prices. The wise farmer will grow more pigs, since they furnish the quickest form of meat production.

## COODLING MOTH TRAP.

A coddling moth trap has been devised by E. H. Siegler of the bureau of entomology, United States Department of Agriculture, to be used as what is known as the banding method of destroying the coddling moth.

The trap affords an attractive place for the larvae to seek their cocoons, and it prevents the escape of the moths after they emerge from these. The trap consists of a burlap band covered by a strip of wire screen.

Strips of burlap six inches wide are folded into three thicknesses. The loose bark from the trunk of the tree is removed and a strip of this burlap folded once around the trunk, held in place by large tacks. The burlap is then covered by black painted wire screen with twelve meshes to the inch. The screen is cut into strips six inches wide and the edges of each strip are folded twice allowing one-fourth inch to each fold. The screen should be long enough to allow for an overlap of three or four inches when placed around the tree. The wire screen is placed over the burlap band and tacked to the tree so that both the

upper and lower edges fit snugly against the bark of the tree. When the burlap is fastened to the tree do not drive the tacks way in, but permit them to project about one-fourth of an inch. The projecting tacks prevent the wire screen from being pulled away from the burlap.

To make sure that no moths escape through the opening along the edges of the trap a thin coating of tar may be used and applied with a brush. The trap should be placed on the trees any time during winter. The coddling moth larva seeks a place to spin its cocoon and crawls up or down the tree trunk. Meeting the trap it enters through one of the openings in the mesh of the wire screen and spins its cocoon beneath the burlap band. When it emerges as a moth it is larger and makes its escape impossible.

This trap is not a substitute for spraying, but an additional precaution and a means of catching those that escape the spray, thus reducing the injury by later broods.

Tobacco can be raised in the garden for making tobacco water for spraying apple or for fumigating. The dried leaf and stems may be used. Seeds may be obtained of any seedman and sown in pots or boxes in the house.

When the plants in the spring garden are warm. The plants should be cut close to the ground in the autumn and hung upside down in a well ventilated, shady place to dry.

For aphid the tobacco is steeped in water for a half hour or so and the decoction diluted with water until it is the color of weak tea. This will kill aphid on roses, pea vines, potatoes, house plants, etc. Strain and apply with a sprayer.

Without meadows and run out pastures can be seeded with wheat or rye. Fall seeding with wheat on good land and with rye on poor land, or spring seeding may be done on poor land with oats or buckwheat and with barley on good land.

When fall seeding is done, apply the grasses with the grain, applying the clover broadcast in the spring. In spring sowing the whole mixture, including the grasses, clover and grain, are applied together.

Apply acid phosphate at the rate of 200 to 300 pounds an acre, or a fertilizer containing 2 to 4 per cent. of ammonia and 10 per cent. of phosphoric acid. Lime is also necessary to establish good meadows or pastures. Usually a ton of ground limestone to

the acre will be found satisfactory. For establishing a meadow on land in a good state of cultivation the following mixture an acre will give good results: timothy, fifteen pounds; clover, five pounds; and alsike clover, three pounds.

For land that is deficient in lime and inclined to be wet use timothy, ten pounds; red top, five pounds; alsike clover, five pounds.

Top dressing for wheat will help bring it through the winter. Wheat will be needed next year more than ever.

Animals kept in the back yard will produce manure that must be supplied to the garden, and at the present fearfully high prices of fertilizer animals are almost worth their keep for the production of manure alone.

A Tree. It grows upon the lawn of our garden in an old English village on the Thames. Sonning. Our tree is thirty feet high with a heavy trunk, a symmetrical round head, small oval leaves in whorls around the twigs, and at this time, October, it is crimson with myriads of clusters of pendulous sprays of coral droops of most exquisite shade and texture. A spray worn on a lace blouse is like jewels from India's coral strand. The fruit hangs thickly on long twigs like garlands. They are used in the harvest home decoration of the village churches.

This autumnal celebration is a thanksgiving rite in which all take part. The little children decorated our baptismal font. The pedestal and bowl were delicately trimmed with spruce, fir, and fern, and even the globe artichokes, cranberries, with asparagus and fern were utilized in a most artistic way. No wonder the English people are a nation of gardeners, since the young idea is taught to shoot from the cradle toward nature's beckoning hand here.

Formerly my wish to know the name of our tree. The nurseryman here told me that it is the Berberis stanophylla, another B. vulgaris, and it is hardly even in Siberia. I have bought saplings here for my Washington garden, in fruit, for a chilling spruce. Probably the American nurseryman can supply it. I have never seen or heard of it there. All our berries known to me are shrubs bearing dark mackerel colored fruit in singles. Is our tree another case of evolution? There are other berries, fern, and even the globe artichokes, cranberries, with asparagus and fern were utilized in a most artistic way. No wonder the English people are a nation of gardeners, since the young idea is taught to shoot from the cradle toward nature's beckoning hand here.

Readers desiring information must give their full address.

starvation—a common occurrence—are closely connected. The more heat the bees are called upon to generate the more money they will consume. In consequence if inadequate stores are provided for them they starve before the winter is over. The thrifty beekeeper will aim to save bees, not stores, and will therefore be liberal in his providing. If he really wants to save stores he can do so by supplying insulation instead of stinging the bees.

When frames of honey are supplied they should be given before cold weather in order that the bees may form a proper clustering space by moving the honey. Extracted honey may also be fed. Honeydew honey causes dysentery and if present in the fall should be removed. In place of extracted honey, a thick sugar syrup is more frequently supplied. This is made of from two to two and one-half parts of sugar to one part of water, with an ounce of tartaric acid added to each forty or sixty pounds of sugar.

At a meeting of the Special War Commission on Poultry Production for the State of Pennsylvania, appointed by State War Poultry Commissioner F. W. Delancey, held in Philadelphia recently with President E. E. Richards of the American Poultry Association present, Prof. F. H. Stoneburn was appointed a committee of one to represent the American Poultry Association and the Pennsylvania Poultry Association.

Prof. Stoneburn's visit to Washington was productive of results. W. F. Priebe of the United States Food Administration made the following report:

Referring to our conference regarding present unfavorable conditions in poultry industry (high feed prices) and prospects for improvement in this direction.

The Food Administration is keenly alive to the situation—has had investigations made in various districts, received written and verbal reports from leading poultrymen, recognizes the need of greater increased production of eggs and poultry—is anxious and determined to do everything in its power to make such increased production possible.

The poultry feed situation seems to be rapidly improving, due to purely natural conditions—big crops, lessened consumption of feed, etc.—which has been selling for about \$2.40 a bushel in Chicago for the old crop, while the new crop is selling for December delivery at less than one-half of the price of the old. Full effect should be felt by feed purchasers about January 1.

We now anticipate that poultry feeds will drop in price to a point from 40 per cent. to 50 per cent. lower than during late summer and early fall of 1917.

Urging poultrymen to use coarser grains instead of wheat.

Alfred E. Lee of poultry section of the Bureau of Animal Industry, reported that the United States Department of Agriculture is starting a big campaign to endeavor to increase poultry production as a side issue on general farms, especially in the grain producing sections, and also to encourage the keeping of small flocks of poultry in back yards in villages and suburbs where a considerable proportion of their food can be secured from kitchen, table and garden wastes. An especial drive is to be made on early hatcheries and the production of inferior eggs for the coming season.

A large number of agents are being appointed to devote their entire time to pushing this campaign in the different sections of the United States.

Present crop reports indicate that there has been an increase of about 20 per cent. in the grain crops over last year.

Bees are very interesting. Those who have not read "The Bee" by Maurice Maeterlinck, should obtain a copy of this most interesting book. It will only be found interesting, but the seeming intelligence of these wonderful insects will be a revelation.

The winter loss of bees is enormous; the average is from one-tenth to one-half of the colonies, and the loss can be prevented if proper winter protection is given.

A temperature of about 57 degrees F. should be maintained. When the temperature falls below this point the bees form a cluster and generate heat by muscular activity, and those on the outside crowd together to present the least exposure. Prolonged heat production exhausts their vitality, and even if they survive the winter they are unfit for brood rearing in the spring.

It is impossible to give the bees too much protection, and too little is the most common error. Sawdust, broken cork chaff, shavings, dry leaves, paper, etc., are good protecting materials. All four sides of the hive should be carefully packed, and also the top and bottom. Eight to twelve inches is none too much protection, and in cold climates more should be given. An opening of eight inches wide and three-eighths of an inch high constructed like a tunnel through the packing and so the packing cannot block it up is sufficient. This entrance should be carefully shielded from the wind, and the entrance should be well protected from the wind.

It is desirable that in the autumn the colonies should be populous and free of young bees. A strong colony presents in proportion to its numbers a smaller surface for the radiation of heat than a small one and a smaller proportion of heat escapes.

Essential as adequate insulation is to the safety of bees, if the packing is delayed too long it may do more harm than good. A colony that has been forced by low temperatures to generate heat is considerably disturbed by the process of packing, and the temperature in the interior of the cluster is at once raised unduly. This may result in injurious premature brood rearing. There is probably no place in the United States where it is safe to postpone packing later than Thanksgiving Day.

Excessive and unnecessary heat production and the death of colonies by

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